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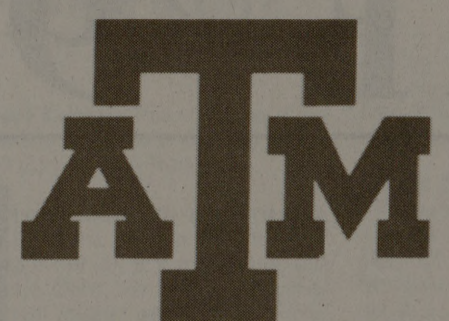
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### New conference changes college football scene in state, but intense rivalry lives on

BY JAMIE BURCH  
THE BATTALION

Both Texas A&M and the University of Texas are now part of a new conference, but that does not detract from one of college football's longest rivalries. Friday's game between the Aggies and the Longhorns at Darrell K. Royal Memorial Stadium is 103 years in the making. For the Aggies, a win could spell "aloha," whereas a loss would spell "goodbye."

This year, there is no conference title on the line for the Aggies. A victory would not position them into a more prominent bowl, but rather, one of the leftovers. However, this game still grants the victors bragging rights. For those players who have friends on the opposing team, a win would only heighten the trash-talking.

Senior offensive lineman Calvin Collins played ball with Texas quarterback James Brown at West Brook High School in Beaumont. Collins said a win calls for boasting when he goes back home.

"When you go home, you're go-

# Texas A&Ms.

**MeeNo. 1**

**When:** November 29, 1996  
**Where:** Darrell K. Royal Memorial Stadium, Austin, Texas  
**Television:** (National) KXAS-TV, KXAS-TV  
**Radio:** KTAM, KORA 97.1  
**Series Record:** Aggies leads 65-16-6 at Kyle Field  
**Last Year:** 16-6 at Kyle Field

**Texas Aggies (6-5, 4-3 vs. Big 12) with a victory: they become bowl-eligible and earn a share of the Big 12 South title.**

### Ags hope to avenge streak-ending Longhorn

BY TOM DAY  
THE BATTALION

For the Aggies, a bowl bid is at stake. For the Longhorns, the first Big 12 South Division title and a chance to play the winner of Nebraska-Colorado in the conference championship game is on the line.

The 103rd installment of Texas A&M vs. Texas commences in Austin at Darrell K. Royal Memorial Field Friday at 10 a.m. And while both schools' postseason fates hang in the balance, the Aggies and Longhorns face an annual opportunity — the chance to beat their hated rival.

The records, standings and bowl berths are gravy.

"This is my 24th time to be a part of this and I'm really looking forward to it," A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said. "It's one of the really special games in college football, a unique game involving a big state that loves football, and the two biggest colleges in the state and two of the biggest in the country."

Last season, the Longhorns handed the Aggies a demoralizing 16-6 defeat, snapping A&M's nation-leading 31-game home win-

ning streak.

Despite outgaining Texas in both yards and first downs, the Aggies killed themselves with six turnovers, starting a trend that continued into this season.

If A&M (6-5 overall, 4-3 in the Big 12) upset the Longhorns (6-4, 5-2 Big 12), the Aggies must not commit the costly mistakes that have plagued them all season A&M senior coach Albert Connell said.

"Because we lost a few games, [Texas is] taking us a little more respect than we're not the team that we used to be," Connell said. "But I think we can beat them when we eliminate the mental mistakes we've been making and come out focused."

Besides playing error-free football, the Aggies are preaching one offensive theme — diversity on offense.

Although the Longhorns rank nationally in rushing defense (206.4 ypg), the Aggies are not planning on the one-dimensional attack of the Longhorns' ranked rushing attack (239.1 ypg).

And this time, the Aggies have a field advantage.

Several factors...

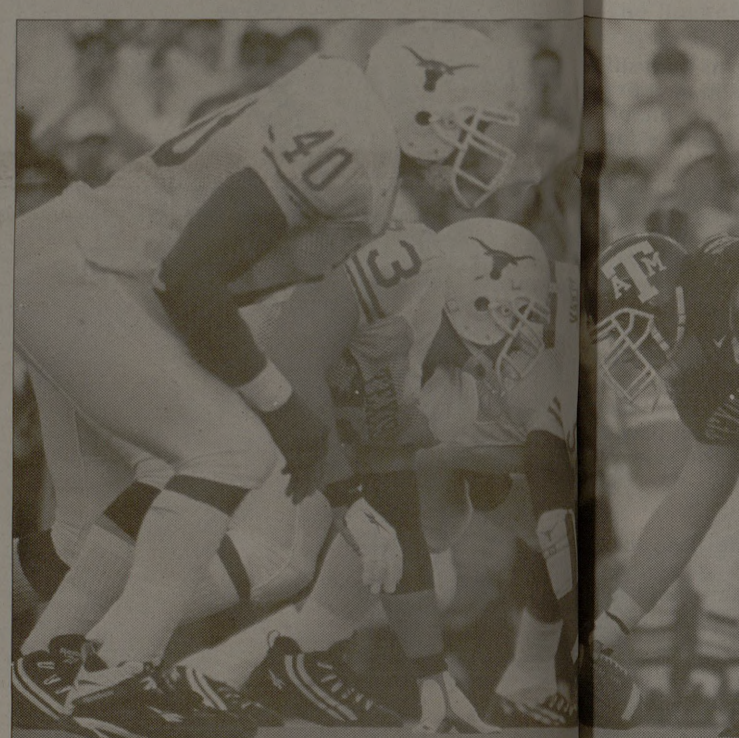
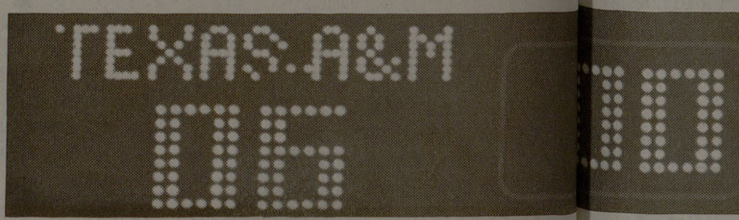


Photo by Milne



### The Aggie seniors on the line and what could be a final college game

"It's hard to believe. This game will be so much about over. It's gonna be fun. Every time I go out in style. This game really means a lot. Especially with their UT flags. That makes this one special." — Keith Mitchell

"It adds more feelings to the game knowing it's my last time. I'm going to play every snap 100 percent. This is a real special game. This is my last game. Last year's loss hurt and we want to return it. This is one of the fiercest rivalries in college football. Both teams could be 0-10 and it would be a heated battle.

"I feel like I'm just carrying on a tradition. We have to take Texas lightly. We've got a point to prove. We can win."

"It would be great to beat the hell out of Texas regardless of what state they're in. Even if it's just to beat Texas a little harder than last year." — Larry Walker II, inside linebacker